1	XAVIER BECERRA		
2	Attorney General of California JANE ZACK SIMON Supervising Deputy Attorney General KEITH C. SHAW Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 227029 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004		
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6	Telephone: (415) 703-5385 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
8	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
9	STATE OF CA	ALIFORNIA	
10	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2017-030137	
11	Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D.	DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER	
12	2157 E. Baseline Road, #101 Tempe, AZ 85283	[Gov. Code, §11520]	
13	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate	[[00v. code, §11320]	
14	No. A31052,		
15	Respondent.		
16	FINDINGS OF FACT		
17	1. On June 5, 2017, Complainant Kimberly Kirchmeyer, in her official capacity as the		
18	Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Medical Board or Board), filed		
19	Accusation No. 800-2017-030137 against Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D. (Respondent) before		
20	the Board.		
21	2. On May 5, 1977, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.		
22	A31052 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at		
23	all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on February 28, 2019, unless		
24	renewed. (License certification is included as Exhibit 1 in the Exhibit Package. ¹)		
25	3. On June 5, 2017, an employee of the Medical Board sent by Certified Mail a copy of		
26	Accusation No. 800-2017-030137, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for		
27			
28	¹ The evidence in support of this Default Decision and Order is submitted herewith as the "Exhibit Package."		
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Discovery, copies of the relevant sections of the California Administrative Procedure Act as required by sections 11503 and 11505 of the Government Code, a copy of the Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Model Disciplinary Guidelines, and a copy of the Uniform Standards for Substance Abusing Licensees to Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D. at his address of record with the Board, 2157 E. Baseline Road, #101, Tempe, Arizona 85283. The Statement to Respondent advised Respondent that he was required to complete, sign and return a Notice of Defense within fifteen days if he desired a hearing on the charges. The return receipt for the Accusation was not returned to the Board and Respondent did not respond to the Accusation. (A copy of the Accusation, the related documents, Declaration of Service, and United States Post Office tracking results reflecting that notice of delivery was left for Respondent on June 8, 2017 are included as Exhibit 2 in the Exhibit Package.)

- 4. On June 22, 2017, an employee of the Attorney General's Office sent by certified and regular mail addressed to Respondent at the address of record set forth above a courtesy Notice of Default. The Notice of Default provided Respondent with a copy of the Accusation and Notice of Defense, advised him that he was in default, and cautioned him that a decision would be rendered by the Board without a hearing if he did not take action. The return receipt for the Courtesy Notice of Default was not returned and Respondent has made no reply. (Courtesy Notice of Default and proof of service are included as Exhibit 3 in the Exhibit Package.) Respondent has not responded to service of the Accusation or the Courtesy Notice of Default. He has not filed a Notice of Defense. As a result, Respondent has waived his right to a hearing on the merits to contest the allegations contained in the Accusation.
 - 5. The allegations of the Accusation are true as follows:
- A. On January 27, 2017, the Arizona Medical Board issued an Interim Consent Agreement (Agreement) regarding Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Arizona. The Agreement contains factual findings that Respondent, while on duty at a hospital, appeared to be impaired and was unable to give appropriate orders for a patient which could have led to compromised care. Respondent was also observed having slurred speech and an unsteady gait. Further, Respondent refused to submit to drug testing as requested by the hospital.

Respondent's privileges at the hospital have been summarily suspended. (A certified copy of the Agreement issued by the Arizona Medical Board is included as Exhibit 4 in the Exhibit Package.)

- B. Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Arizona is subject to the following terms:
- (1) Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona until he applies to the Executive Director after receiving permission once all terms and conditions of the Agreement have been met;
- (2) Respondent must complete a health assessment by the Arizona Medical Board's Physician Health Program; and
- (3) Respondent must comply with all evaluation and treatment recommendations by the Physician Health Program. (Agreement, Exhibit 4 in the Exhibit Package.)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

- 6. Section 2305 of the Code provides, in part, that the revocation, suspension, or other discipline, restriction or limitation imposed by another state upon a license to practice medicine issued by that state, or the revocation, suspension, or restriction of the authority to practice medicine by any agency of the federal government, that would have been grounds for discipline in California under the Medical Practice Act, constitutes grounds for discipline for unprofessional conduct.
 - 7. Section 141 of the Code provides:
- "(a) For any licensee holding a license issued by a board under the jurisdiction of the department, a disciplinary action taken by another state, by any agency of the federal government, or by another country for any act substantially related to the practice regulated by the California license, may be a ground for disciplinary action by the respective state licensing board. A certified copy of the record of the disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or by another country shall be conclusive evidence of the events related therein.
- "(b) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from applying a specific statutory provision in the licensing act administered by the board that provides for discipline based upon a

disciplinary action taken against that licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or another country."

8. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing and, based on Respondent's express admissions by way of default and the evidence before it, contained in Exhibits 1 through 4, finds that the allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-030137 are true.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

- 1. Pursuant on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D. has subjected his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A31052 to discipline.
- 2. A copy of the Accusation and the related documents and Declaration of Service are attached.
 - 3. The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.
- 4. The Board is authorized to revoke Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate based upon the following violations alleged in the Accusation:

"Respondent's conduct and the action of the Arizona Medical Board . . . constitute cause for discipline pursuant to sections 2305 and/or 141 of the Code."

ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A31052, issued to Respondent Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D., is revoked.

Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The agency in its discretion may vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute.

This Decision shall become effective on <u>August 23, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.</u>

It is so ORDERED on July 24, 2017

FOR THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Kimberly Kirchmeyer Executive Director

FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA** ANALYST

SACRAMENTO June 5 BY: K. Voorg XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California 2 JANE ZACK SIMON Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 KEITH C. SHAW Deputy Attorney General 4 State Bar No. 227029 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 5 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004 Telephone: (415) 703-5385 6 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480 Attorneys for Complainant 7 **BEFORE THE** 8 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 Case No. 800-2017-030137 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: 11 ACCUSATION Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D. 12 2157 E. Baseline Road, #101 13 Tempe, AZ 85283 14 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A31052. 15 Respondent. 16 17 Complainant alleges: 18 **PARTIES** 19 Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official 1. capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California (Board). 20 On or about May 5, 1977, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's 21 2. 22 Certificate Number A31052 to Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought 23 herein and will expire on February 28, 2019, unless renewed. 24 25 **JURISDICTION** This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following 26 3. 27 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated. 28 Section 2227 of the Code provides in part that the Board may revoke, A.

suspend for a period not to exceed one year, or place on probation, the license of any licensee who has been found guilty under the Medical Practice Act, and may recover the costs of probation monitoring.

- B. Section 2305 of the Code provides, in part, that the revocation, suspension, or other discipline, restriction or limitation imposed by another state upon a license to practice medicine issued by that state, or the revocation, suspension, or restriction of the authority to practice medicine by any agency of the federal government, that would have been grounds for discipline in California under the Medical Practice Act, constitutes grounds for discipline for unprofessional conduct.
 - C. Section 141 of the Code provides:
- "(a) For any licensee holding a license issued by a board under the jurisdiction of the department, a disciplinary action taken by another state, by any agency of the federal government, or by another country for any act substantially related to the practice regulated by the California license, may be a ground for disciplinary action by the respective state licensing board. A certified copy of the record of the disciplinary action taken against the licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or by another country shall be conclusive evidence of the events related therein.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall preclude a board from applying a specific statutory provision in the licensing act administered by the board that provides for discipline based upon a disciplinary action taken against that licensee by another state, an agency of the federal government, or another country."

CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Discipline, Restriction, or Limitation Imposed by Another State)

4. On January 27, 2017, the Arizona Medical Board issued an Interim Consent Agreement (Agreement) regarding Respondent's license to practice medicine in the State of Arizona. The Agreement contains factual findings that Respondent, while on duty at a hospital, appeared to be impaired and was unable to give appropriate orders for a patient which could have led to compromised care. Respondent was also observed having slurred speech and an unsteady gait. Further, Respondent refused to submit to drug testing as requested by the hospital. Respondent's privileges at the hospital have been summarily suspended. A true and correct copy of the Agreement issued by the Arizona Medical Board is attached as Exhibit A.

BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

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In the Matter of

MUHAMMAD JAMIL AKHTAR, M.D.

For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine

Holder of License No. 10007

In the State of Arizona.

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Case No. MD-17-0087A

INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT FOR PRACTICE RESTRICTION

INTERIM CONSENT AGREEMENT

Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D. ("Respondent"), elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal with respect to this Interim Consent Agreement for Practice Restriction and consents to the entry of this Order by the Arizona Medical Board ("Board").

INTERIM FINDINGS OF FACT

- The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of 1. the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- Respondent is the holder of License No. 10007 for the practice of allopathic 2. medicine in the State of Arizona.
- The Board initiated case number MD-17-0087A after receiving a complaint 3. from a hospital alleging that on or about January 21, 2017, Respondent appeared to be impaired and was unable to give appropriate orders for a patient that could have led to compromised care. Respondent was also observed to have slurred speech and unsteady gait.
- Respondent further refused to submit for drug testing as requested by the 4. hospital.
 - Respondent's privileges at the hospital have been summarily suspended. 5.

- 6. The aforementioned information was presented to the investigative staff, the medical consultant and the lead Board member. All reviewed the information and concur that the interim consent agreement to restrict Respondent's practice is appropriate.
- 7. The investigation into this matter is pending and will be forwarded to the Board promptly upon completion for review and action.

INTERIM CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over Respondent.
- 2. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1405(C)(25) the Executive Director has authority to enter into a consent agreement when there is evidence of danger to the public health and safety.
- 3. Pursuant to A.A.C. R4-16-504, the Executive Director may enter into an interim consent agreement when there is evidence that a restriction is needed to mitigate imminent danger to the public's health and safety. Investigative staff, the Board's medical consultant and the lead Board member have reviewed the case and concur that an interim consent agreement is appropriate.

INTERIM ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent is prohibited from engaging in the practice of medicine in the State of Arizona as set forth in A.R.S. § 32-1401(22) until he applies to the Executive Director and receives permission to do so as stated in paragraph 3 below. Respondent may not request release from or modification of this Interim Consent Agreement for Practice Restriction until he has completed a health assessment by the Board's Physician Health Program ("PHP") Contractor and complies with all evaluation or treatment recommendations.

- 2. If monitoring is recommended after completion of treatment, Respondent shall immediately enroll and participate in the Board's PHP with the following terms and conditions:
 - a. Respondent shall not consume alcohol or any food or other substance containing poppy seeds or alcohol.
 - b. Respondent shall not take any illegal drugs or mood altering medications unless prescribed for a legitimate therapeutic purpose.
 - c. Respondent shall attend the PHP's Contractor's relapse prevention group therapy sessions one time per week for the duration of this Interim Consent Agreement, unless excused by the relapse prevention group facilitator for good cause. Individual relapse therapy may be substituted for one or more of the group therapy sessions, if the PHP Contractor pre-approves substitution. The relapse prevention group facilitators or individual relapse prevention therapist shall submit monthly reports to the PHP Contractor regarding attendance and progress.
 - d. If requested by the PHP Contractor, Respondent shall attend ninety 12-step meetings or other self-help group meetings appropriate for substance abuse and approved by the PHP Contractor, for a period of ninety days. Upon completion of the ninety meetings in ninety days, Respondent shall participate in a 12-step recovery program or other self-help program appropriate for substance abuse as recommended by the PHP Contractor. Respondent shall attend a minimum of three 12-step or other self-help program meetings per week. Two meetings per month must be Caduceus meetings. Respondent must maintain a log of all self-help meetings.
 - e. Respondent shall promptly obtain a Primary Care Physician ("PCP") and

shall submit the name of the physician to the PHP Contractor in writing for approval. Except in an Emergency, Respondent shall obtain medical care and treatment only from the PCP and from health care providers to whom the PCP refers Respondent. Respondent shall promptly provide a copy of this Interim Consent Agreement to the PCP. Respondent shall also inform all other health care providers who provide medical care or treatment that Respondent is participating in the PHP. "Emergency" means a serious accident or sudden illness that, if not treated immediately, may result in a long-term medical problem or loss of life.

- f. All prescriptions for controlled substances shall be approved by the PHP Contractor prior to being filled except in an Emergency. Controlled substances prescribed and filled in an emergency shall be reported to the PHP within 48 hours. Respondent shall take no Medication unless the PCP or other health care provider to whom the PCP refers Respondent prescribes and the PHP Contractor approves the Medication. Respondent shall not self-prescribe any Medication. "Medication" means a prescription-only drug, controlled substance, and over-the counter preparation, other than plain aspirin, plain ibuprofen, and plain acetaminophen.
- g. Respondent shall submit to random biological fluid, hair and/or nail testing (as specifically directed below) to ensure compliance with the PHP.
- h. Respondent shall provide the PHP Contractor in writing with one telephone number that shall be used to contact Respondent on a 24 hour per day/seven day per week basis to submit to biological fluid, hair, and/or nail testing to ensure compliance with the PHP. For the purposes of this section, telephonic notice shall be deemed given at the time a message to appear is

left at the contact telephone number provided by Respondent. Respondent authorizes any person or organization conducting tests on the collected samples to provide testing results to the PHP Contractor. Respondent shall comply with all requirements for biological fluid, hair, and/or nail collection. Respondent shall pay for all costs for the testing.

- i. Respondent shall provide the PHP Contractor with written notice of any plans to travel out of state.
- j. Respondent shall immediately notify the Board and the PHP Contractor in writing of any change in office or home addresses and telephone numbers.
- Respondent provides full consent for the PHP Contractor to discuss the Respondent's case with the Respondent's PCP or any other health care providers to ensure compliance with the PHP.
- I. The relationship between the Respondent and the PHP Contractor is a direct relationship. Respondent shall not use an attorney or other intermediary to communicate with the PHP Contractor on participation and compliance issues.
- m. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs, including costs associated with participating in the PHP, at the time service is rendered or within 30 days of each invoice sent to the Respondent. An initial deposit of two (2) months PHP fees is due upon entering the program. Failure to pay either the initial PHP deposit or monthly fees 60 days after invoicing will be reported to the Board by the PHP Contractor and may result in disciplinary action up to and including revocation.
- n. In the event Respondent resides or practices as a physician in a state other than Arizona, Respondent shall participate in the rehabilitation program

sponsored by that state's medical licensing authority or medical society. Respondent shall cause the monitoring state's program to provide written quarterly reports to the PHP Contractor regarding Respondent's attendance, participation, and monitoring. The monitoring state's program and Respondent shall immediately notify the PHP Contractor if Respondent is non-compliant with any aspect of the monitoring requirements or is required to undergo any additional treatment.

- o. The PHP Contractor shall immediately notify the Board if Respondent is noncompliant with any aspect of PHP monitoring or is required to undergo any additional treatment.
- 3. Once all of the terms and conditions of this Interim Consent Agreement have been met, Respondent may request, in writing, release and/or modification of this Interim Consent Agreement. The Executive Director, in consultation with and agreement of the Lead Board Member and the Chief Medical Consultant, has the discretion to determine whether it is appropriate to release Respondent from this Interim Consent Agreement.
- 4. The Board retains jurisdiction and may initiate new action based upon any violation of this Interim Consent Agreement, including, but not limited to, summarily suspending Respondent's license.
- 5. Because this is an Interim Consent Agreement and not a final decision by the Board regarding the pending investigation, it is subject to further consideration by the Board. Once the investigation is complete, it will be promptly provided to the Board for its review and appropriate action.
- 6. The Board retains jurisdiction and may initiate new action based upon any violation of this Interim Consent Agreement, including, but not limited to, summarily suspending Respondent's license.

7. This Interim Consent Agreement shall be effective on the date signed by the Board's Executive Director.

DATED this 27 day of January, 2017.

ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

Patricia E. McSorley
Executive Director

RECITALS

Respondent understands and agrees that:

- 1. The Board, through its Executive Director, may adopt this Interim Consent Agreement, or any part thereof, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1405(C)(25) and A.A.C. R4-16-504.
- 2. Respondent has read and understands this Interim Consent Agreement as set forth herein, and has had the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement with an attorney or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Interim Consent Agreement with an attorney. Respondent voluntarily enters into this Interim Consent Agreement and by doing so agrees to abide by all of its terms and conditions.
- 3. By entering into this Interim Consent Agreement, Respondent freely and voluntarily relinquishes all rights to an administrative hearing on the matters set forth herein, as well as all rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action, concerning the matters related to the Interim Consent Agreement.
- 4. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of this matter or any matters that may be currently

pending before the Board and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding this or any other pending or future investigations, actions, or proceedings. Respondent also understands that acceptance of this Interim Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from instituting civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Interim Consent Agreement. Respondent further does not relinquish his rights to an administrative hearing, rehearing, review, reconsideration, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action, concerning the matters related to a final disposition of this matter, unless he affirmatively does so as part of the final resolution of this matter.

- 5. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon signing this Interim Consent Agreement and returning it to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke his acceptance of this Interim Consent Agreement or make any modifications to it. Any modification of this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties in writing.
- 6. Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement shall not become effective unless and until it is signed by the Board's Executive Director.
- 7. Respondent understands and agrees that if the Board's Executive Director does not adopt this Interim Consent Agreement, he will not assert in any future proceedings that the Board's consideration of this Interim Consent Agreement constitutes bias, prejudice, prejudgment, or other similar defense.

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Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement is a public 8. record that may be publicly disseminated as a formal action of the Board, and that it shall be reported as required by law to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

Respondent understands that this Interim Consent Agreement does not 9. alleviate his responsibility to comply with the applicable license-renewal statutes and rules. If this Interim Consent Agreement remains in effect at the time Respondent's allopathic medical license comes up for renewal, he must renew his license if Respondent wishes to retain his license. If Respondent elects not to renew his license as prescribed by statute and rule, Respondent's license will not expire but rather, by operation of law (A.R.S. § 32-3202), become suspended until the Board takes final action in this matter. Once the Board takes final action, in order for Respondent to be licensed in the future, he must submit a new application for licensure and meet all of the requirements set forth in the statutes and rules at that time.

10. Respondent understands that any violation of this Interim Consent Agreement constitutes unprofessional conduct under A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(r) ("[v]iolating a formal order, probation, consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive director under this chapter").

Respondent understands and agrees to the terms of this Interim

DATED: 1/27/2017

EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing e-mailed

Consent Agreements

1	Muhammad Jamil Akhtar, M.D. Address of Record	
2	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this day of January, 2017 w	
3		
4	Arizona Medical Board	
5	9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road Scottsdale, AZ 85258	
6	may Probe	
7	Arizona Medical Board Staff	
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